WENDELL POST

Vol. VII No. 4 October - November '84 25¢

Rt. 2 Fund Drive Over the Top

A seemingly impossible task has been accomplished.

The finances of the Rt. 2 Environmental Coalition are in shape to handle the costs of seeking a preliminary injunction against relocating the highway through Wendell State Forest. "We are over the top of our $1500 goal," Anne Zak announced to the people gathered for the $30 plate gourmet dinner in Deerfield on Sept. 30. "What we raise from here on will go for postage, travel, and costs associated with lobbying the legislature," she said.

The money was raised both through direct appeals and events like a giant tag sale, dances, bake sales, a music festival and the elaborate dinner, at which Wendell people mingled with conservation-minded guests from Greenfield, Amherst and else where. The tag sale, at over $2,500, was the most lucrative, with most of the other events making from $50 to $1,500. Individual donations have ranged from a frayed dollar bill to several $1,000 checks. "We greatly appreciate them all," Anne said--"big and small."

The highway plan, which would put a highway through a 4 mile stretch of wild, undeveloped mountainside on the Millers River as well as through Farley and Wendell Depot, was first fought at the political and bureaucratic levels. When this was unsuccessful, the legal and technical resort became the next avenue of approach. Besides being vulnerable on legal grounds because of laws protecting public lands against highways, the plan could possibly be rejected by the legislature when it is asked to approve a land swap between the Dept. of Environmental Management and the roadbuilding Dept. of Public Works.

Town Hit Twice by Drug Arrests

Helicopters and airplanes have been flying lower than usual over Wendell in recent weeks. They are searching for an herb with a bad reputation, and they have found it. Two marijuana arrests have been made in two separate incidents, involving Mass. State Police and Wendell police.

Investigations began during the last week in August for Franklin and Worcester counties according to trooper James Welch of the Massachusetts State Police. Welch stated he was not authorized to comment on the aerial surveillance, but said the investigations began through the initiative of State Police and would continue indefinitely.

cont' p. 4.

MARY L. WENTWORTH, Democratic nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives, on a recent visit to Wendell. She declared her opposition to the relocation of Route 2 through Wendell, has the endorsement of the Freeze organization, supports women's rights legislation, and has worked in positions fighting for economic, social and political justice for years. She lives in Amherst. At the Wendell Music Festival in August, she spoke with bystanders about the Defense Economic Adjustment Act, which gives the federal government the responsibility of coordinating conversion at defense plants from a cold war economy to a peace-oriented economy.

A Plea to Drivers

A few days ago at the end of Mormon Hollow Road someone's dog was hit by a car and left to die. The driver didn't bother to stop. This MIGHT have been one of our children.

On the section of Mormon Hollow Road between Grogans and Thompsons, there are eleven families with children. Some have bikes and some walk on this stretch between houses. The road is curvy making it impossible in places to see fifty yards ahead. It is hilly, making it impossible to see what is over the hill. These children have as much right to be on the road as the cars you are driving.

To the four or five drivers who speed by here, I entreat you...PLEASE SLOW DOWN.. ..at least between Grogans and the end of Mormon Hollow Road before you hit one of our children.

- by Elsie G. Diemand

Chance to serve

Town Committee Members are needed

Highway commission - 1 member
Fire House Study Committee - 1 member
Finance Committee - 1 member

Call Town Moderator Kathy Becker, 544-2086.

~ Inside Stories ~

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Pesticide Update

At the risk of my relatives taking umbrage, I have to relate that my Grandmother surprised me the other night with a telephone call. Although we had weathered the myriad crises of my tempestuous youth with our affection one for the other intact, we haven't quite spoken since I became a Selectperson. "So, you're a boss now, Jimmy? I don't talk to the bosses." A rather succinct statement, even for my family widely known for its reticence to disturb the New England pastoral quietude. I've never delved into her life in her native Italy, but Venice must have had a particularly virulent form of scabrous politicians in her day.

"There's bosses, and then there's Bosses", so she explained my unexpected moral reconstruction. She had finally heard about Wendell's pesticide fight, and wanted to lend her encouragement to our efforts. As she is still recovering from some outlandish utility bills of this winter past, her words of encouragement were rather vehement.

cont' p. 3.

Party for 7th to 12th Graders

The Wendell Community Church, in combination with the Athol Methodist Youth Group will be sponsoring a party for the 7th to 12th graders at the church in Wendell. Christine Sullivan and Sylvia Wetherby are co-chairpersons of this event. There will be refreshments, prizes and activities planned that I am under a blood oath not to reveal. Admission is either $1.50 or a pre-collected Unicef box. Boxes may be obtained from Julie Sullivan at Mahar Regional or Sylvia Wetherby.

The date is October 28th at 6:30 pm and though only the second of such parties it sounds like a spine chiller too-good-to-be-missed. Don't forget your costume.

So be warned...on the 31st, forget your garlic, sharpened stake and silver bullet, they are for a different breed of malign influence; carry your candles and boughs of witch hazel and holly and have a safe Halloween.

Helen Grow

WENDELL POST

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Wendell Church News

The Wendell Church has had a lively summer. Beginning with our third annual Peace Pentecost Celebration in June. We shared films, talked with Frances Crowe, sang with Shane Devine, ate a delicious pot luck dinner and finished with a sufi dance led by Susan DunLany. For the first time this year we had a church picnic at Ruggles Pond. Families and friends shared food and fellowship on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Our third major event this summer was Vacation Bible School where fifteen local children learned more about the Bible through music, crafts, games prayer and a movie. Our thanks to all the people who worked to make the week a success. The week ended with Bible School projects on display in the church for Old Home Day and a lemonade stand on the lawn.

Our fall schedule is looking just as full beginning with an all-church meeting Sunday, Oct. 21 immediately following our 10:30 a.m. service. The last Sunday in October will bring our second annual Halloween party for teens. This year we will be combining fun with service by charging one dollar at the door or one filled Unicef box. Teenagers are encouraged to Trick or Treat for Unicef this year with materials available from Julia Sullivan or Sylvia Wetherby. Also, new this year will be youth groups from other area churches joining us in the Unicef collection and party.

The Church Calendar

Oct. 7:	World Communion Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. with Rev. James Ewen special offering for Neighbors in need
Oct.14:	Guest minister to speak at 10:30 a.m.
Oct.21:	Worship with Jim Ewen 10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting for all church members and friends following service
Oct.28:	10:30 a.m. Spiritual Potpouri bring a story, poem, prayer, song, or scripture to share 6:00 p.m. Halloween party for area teenagers, admission $1.00 or one filled Unicef box
Nov. 4:	10:30 a.m. Communion Service with Rev. James Ewen.
Nov.11:	10:30 a.m. Rev. Jean Peterson guest speaker from Warwick
Nov.18:	10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. James Ewen Monthly business meeting to follow service
Nov.25:	10:30 a.m. Potpouri
Dec. 2:	First Sunday in Advent 10:30 a.m. Communion Service with Rev. James Ewen
Dec. 9:	10:30 a.m. Musical Program for the Advent Season
Dec.16:	10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. James Ewen Monthly business meeting to follow service
Dec.23:	Christmas Sunday 10:30 a.m. Third Annual Christmas pageant presented by Wendell Children
Dec.30:	10:30 a.m. Spiritual Potpouri

Important Notice: In order for parents with small children to be able to worship comfortably at our Sunday morning services, the church committee has decided to pay for child care to be provided during that time. Anyone who would be able to help at that time (10:30 a.m., Sundays) please call 544-6146.

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DAVID WILDER JUDY WILDER

Births

David Christopher Ewell was born on Aug. 25, 1984 in Greenfield. Congratulations to Christine and David Ewell of Stone Rd.

Deaths

Lionel Lattinville

Lionel E. Lattinville, 74, of 46 Lenox Circle, Athol, former owner of the Transcript Press, died September 29 in the Univ. of Mass. Hospital, Worcester. During his years at the Transcript Press, Lattinville printed the Athol High School newspaper, the "Little Red Schoolhouse" for a total of 40 years. Last year he presented his printing tools to the school.
He leaves his wife, Marguerite E. (Durkee) Lattinville; two daughters, one is Rae Kowacki of Erving; two brothers; a sister; nine grandchildren, one is Dale Kowacki of Wendell; and three great-grandchildren.

Land Transfers

5-1	Jessie Bickerton to Jack Ellis, 25 acres in East Wendell
6-27	Kathyrn Judice to Robert Shulman, 19 acres in Wendell center
6-27	Robert Shulman to Richard Drohen and Nancy Spittle, 8 acres on N. Main St.
7-3	Raymond and Barbara Hellhaler to Elizabeth Scully, mobile home and 1 acre on Bear Mtn. Rd.
7-6	Commonwealth Pioneers to Katherine Nielson 62.7 acres on Millers Rd.
7-11	Francis Yursza to Thomas and Virginia Hoyle, mobile home and 2.8 acres on Locks Village Rd.
7-19	Lewis and Kay Powling to Donald and Denise Reipold, buildings and 1.83 acres on Locks Village Rd.

Fire Log

F

8-4	Smoke investation at campfire on Farley Rd.
9-7	Mutual aid to Fred Haye's sawmill on Pine Hill Rd., Orange
9-11	Brush fire under power lines on Stone Rd.
9-16	Rekindle of brush fire under power lines on Stone Rd.
9-19	Over-fired woodstove at Wilder residence on Davis Rd.

Police Log

8-4	Break in at Walt Fairbrother's trailer; gun stolen
8-8	Theft of 2 bicycles and $500 cash at Linda Diemand's, Mormon Hollow Rd.
8-9	Family disturbance
8-11	Repeat of family disturbance
8-11	Charles Fiske cited for motor vehicle violation in conjunction with accident which he had with Roland Jean, Jr.
8-18	Art Lehman reported newspaper box damaged
8-18	Seth Frobel hit by car while riding bike on Depot Rd.
8-23	Ann Zak reported $800 missing from Wendell Country Store
8-25	Drug bust at Apollo Blue's.
9-4	Gary Gardner areested for D.W.I.
9-8	Break in at Ruggles Pond
9-8	Steve Lelito's car broken into
9-14	Accident on Depot Rd.
9-15	Accident on New Salem Rd.
9-23	Car belonging to Jamie Paddock stolen from Wendell Depot
9-26	Vandalism of barn and garden at Ray Ducharme's

Spraying Continues

The Herbicide Story is not yet resolved to the satisfaction of the voters of Wendell and many other towns in Franklin County. It is a fairly middle-aged battle, but our resources and energy are as youthful as on day ONE. Until the utilities and RR representatives come forward and willingly open the forum for negotiation and renewed neighborly cooperation, we view them with a jaundiced eye. They traverse our waterways and insist on maintaining their Right of Ways with toxic chemicals. It is not written that they have ultimate responsibility to protect our surface and groundwater. But who does?

We all do! I am requesting everyone of you who taps a well, daily drinks or offers water, swims locally, etc. to realize that no one knows as well as you what enters that water source. You are the overseer, observing and filtering information and material. Legislators and government officials can help, but they will and must respond to our alert observations.

I request each neighborhood to obtain a water resource map from any town official. Neil Feltman of the Conservation Commission has offered to copy and make available sectional water region maps of our town. The Board of Health, C.C. and myself have looked at an incomplete picture of our water resources and with large overlay maps are beginning to chart areas of potential seepage. For instance, the town dump, the A.T.&T. tower, Highway Garage, underground storage tanks for school, fire dept. gas station, etc. RR and power lines should be drawn in, cottage industries with unsavory by-products, salt piles...These maps can be passed within a neighborhood. Interested persons can designate where they recognize old dumps, large underground tanks, etc.

The utilities feel singled out. But our aim is not to harass them. Our goals are to assure continued provisions of the drinkable water we presently use. Unlike other unfortunate towns, we have the chance to use preventative medicine which can stop potential pollution. I urge you to become actively involved in your local water protection service which will not exist without you. Organize your neighbors, find time so we need not find $ later.

I approached the County Commissioners about our concerns of herbicide applications on powerlines and RR. They said most towns had found satisfactory methods of dealing with this problem. Which towns agree? Responsiblity of groundwater protection will remain ours unless we - you can assist me and convince the Commissioners that this issue is not an individual one. Certainly where the utilities are not forced to use chemical maintenance, certainly where some viable options exist where hundreds of local jobs and industries (as Xmas tree farming or blueberry picking) could be implemented, we have the choice and the time. The Commissioners' number is 413-774-4015 or write: 425 Main St. Greenfield,MA 01301 and ask for a response.

Nina Keller

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Two contestants round a corner in Wendell State Forest in one of the events in the Fat Tire Bicycle Competition on August 18-19. This was one of the first large events in the East for the bikes, also called mountain bikes.

Pesticide cont'

Unfortunately, since filing our appeals brief with the Supreme Judicial Court in mid-August, not too much of note has happened. The Commonwealth, railroads and utilities have 40 days in which to file their response brief, and after that, we have 30 days in which to file a re-rebuttal brief. Rather tedious and all, considering total oral arguments are limited to fifteen minutes. The prospects for a successful appeal are improving, especially on the issue of State pre-emption of Home Rule. The Federal pre-emption aspect is still the weaker, but a recent California Supreme Court decision allowing Mendocino County to further regulate pesticide use bolsters our position considerably. Claus the Lith is offering odds of 70-30 on the State part of our argument, but only 52-48 for the Federal.

The County Commissioners meanwhile have developed a learned and creative response to the increasing concerns of County Towns over pesticide use. Their convoluted reasoning seems to go thusly: 1) The noxious effects of pesticides are dependent upon who is doing the spraying; 2) while utility and railroad spraying has the greatest potential for harm, they are doing a reasonably good job, and therefore there is no need for County (or Town) involvement; 3) for farmers, shade tobacco growers, home owners, lawn care companies, these noxious effects are somehow mitigated, and so here also there is no necessity for further regulation. Although one would like to assume that their logic is intact, still it becomes difficult to explain within this context the problems Whately, Worthington, Huntington and West Springfield are experiencing with pesticide pollution of their groundwater. I suppose, like the Unified Field Theory, this seeming contradiction is explained in the esoteria of a higher level of thought unavailable to us more plebian citizens. I would hope that the County would take upon itself the responsibility to help the Towns deal constructively with the problems of pesticide use, but at the moment such cooperation seems distinctly remote.

So the saga muddles on. At the least, it has occasioned the reconcilliation, albeit tentative, of myself and my Grandmother. No mean feat, that.

- by Jim Slavas

Linda Facey Recovers

Many people in our community were deeply concerned about the freak bicycle accident that decommissioned Linda Facey several months ago. But good news prevails and it seems we should all share in that. Linda needed a few months to recoup her energy and coordination and by now there is no holding her down. In fact, I wonder if she yearns for some calm and free time she had too much of during her convalescence to just enjoy her farm and family. She is once again driving a school bus (the big one) in Turners Falls, milking her precious Dorothy, canning, freezing and finding time to oppose the use of herbicides on power lines through her pasture. The valley welcomes you home, Linda.

Letter to the Post

I wish to express my "THANK YOU" to everyone in town and out for everything they did for me and my family or gave to all of us when I had my accident.

I have no memory of the whole day it happened or the first two weeks down in the Worcester hospital at all. The third week down there it was a dream to me, but I did recognize some of the people who came to see me. Even the doctors say I have had a speedy recovery. When Bill and Brenda Grogan brought me up to the Greenfield hospital; I realized it wasn't a dream; it was real life. I thanked God for being alive, and the most important thing in my life are my four boys. To be home again meant the world to me. To see all our animals and talk to people I think a great deal of means a whole lot to me too. It's great to be back to school bus driving again, too! Also thanks for the school committee member position; children mean a great deal to me and always have.

With best wishes to all,
Linda Facey

Wendell Arts Council

Wendell Arts Council is having a meeting on Wednesday, October 17th, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall to decide which applications will receive the grant money. Anyone interested is welcome.

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1st Sun. of the mo.
10am - 2pm

Drug Busts Cont'

George Butler, Jr. of Bear Mountain Rd is currently the only arrest in Wendell by State Police. A search warrant was obtained through the Orange District Court by state police, and a search of Butler's home and property was made on Sept. 11. Butler was not at home at the time, but turned himself in later that evening to state police in Athol. He was charged with manufacturing of marijuana, trafficing of marijuana, and possession of psilocybin. On the advice of his lawyer, Butler refused comment.

Ed Chase, Wendell Chief of Police, was not involved with the Butler arrest. "State police act on their own. I was not involved with the planning." Chase also remarked that aerial surveillance is a method used by state police, but he did not know how much was used in Wendell.

Deacon Apollo Blues of Wendell Center was recently arrested by Wendell police and charged with possession and cultivation of marijuana, intent to distribute marijuana, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Thirty plants were removed from his property along with paraphernalia and small amounts of marijuana inside the home.

A Wendell resident who grows marijuana for personal use only, had the following comments concerning the recent investigations. "I've been growing marijuana for ten years and never dealt it. I'm a fine American citizen and contributing member of my town; not a criminal. I feel good not supporting the criminal establishment which lives off the marketing of imported marijuana. What I do does not violate anyones' human or civil rights. I'm resentful as a taxpayer. The money could be better spent in other ways. Nobody I know will stop smoking due to this pressure. I don't see myself any different from the person who brews beer or wine at home."

Bob Streeter

Press Release

The shared Administrative Assistant for the Towns of Erving, Warwick, Wendell and Northfield, Deborah Radway, announces her winter office schedule effective Oct. 1, 1984.

Her schedule is as follows:

Mondays	Erving Town Hall
Tuesdays	Warwick Town Hall
1st Wednesday of month	Wendell Town Hall
Thursdays&Fridays	Northfeild Town Hall

Additional day and night hours in Wendell and Erving will be added during the winter to facilitate the filing of applications for the two town housing rehabilitation and weatherization program. Those hours will be announced at a later date.

The Northfield Town Hall will serve as the Administrative Assistant's home base, and messages may be left for her there, with the Town Secretary, Monday through Friday, from 8-4pm. This schedule is subject to change due to weather, meetings and appointments and will remain in effect until April 1st, 1985.

contact: Deb Radway, 413-498-5557

Swift River Preschool

There was a visiting day at Swift River Pre-School on October first. Many students and parents came to meet each other and also to see the environment the children would be going to school in.

Teacher, Janet Ducharme, said the morning went wonderfully. The children were playing with the different things for long periods of time, instead of running around, trying to see everything all at once. It was a very pleasant morning, with the students shyly getting to know each other and the parents having a good time visiting amoung themselves as well as playing with the children.

The Swift River Pre-School Fund goal is $1540 and we have raised $830. That leaves $710 for us to raise. If you had thought about making a donation, and you can afford it now, it would be great to reach our goal soon. If now is not a good time and you might be able to contribute later, you can contact Janet at 544-3109 to make a pledge.

We would also like to thank the Wendell Golden Agers for their very generous donation to the Pre-School fund.

Space heaters are illegal in residential homes

If we, as a society, are to significant ly improve our fire loss record, we must elevate fire prevention and fire protection to a higher level on our list of priorities.

Here, in Massachusetts, so called space heaters were outlawed in 1962 because of the number of deaths and losses to property.

Prior to that time, there were over 150 deaths and immeasurable dollar loss attributed to kerosene space heaters.

Since the time these heaters were banned until most recently, no loss of life has been recorded as the result of space heater use.

But, lately, these heating units have reappeared on the market and a corresponding increase in the number of deaths, injuries and property damage are being recorded.

In New Cumberland, New York, two children died in a fire when the kerosene unit they were filling burst into flame in their bedroom. In Wellesley, Ma., a portable space heater melted two 5 gallon plastic containers of fuel oil, releasing the contents onto the floor. The fire department arrived just in time to avert a diaster.

Chapter 148, section 5A, Massachusetts Generel Laws, prohibits the use of kerosene heaters in any building used in whole or in part for human habitation.

The fire service concurs with the intent of this law and wholeheartedly embrace it.

With the people of Massachusetts firmly behind their fire service, this law will remain intact.

Mass. Fire Prevention Association

Special Town Meeting

Aug. 28

Town Meeting members approved all articles at a Aug. 28 Special Town Meeting. The meeting dealt mostly with the Wendell Highway Departments' needs and a resolution on the Rt. 2 problem.

Three articles used a $40,000 sum no longer needed in the town's bridge repair account. The meeting approved transfers of $30,000 for a new diesel dump truck, of $2,500 for snow plow repair and of $7,500 for a new road sander. Another article gave the Selectboard permission to sell two non-functioning town trucks.

Approval of the next two articles changed the establishment date of the Highway Commission to the 1985 Town Election instead of 1986. $3,225.70 was approved for a loan payment on the new bucket loader. This was an article accidentally left off the usual warrant. $400 was approved for a new cemetery lawn mower.

After more than a half hour discussion, the meeting approved, 81 -17, a resolution entering the Town as a plaintiff in any legal suit opposing the relocation of Rt.2 through Wendell (The South Bank Alignment) In this way any interest the town may have in the matter may be represented.

EVERETT and JACKIE RICKETTES, active in the United Electrical Workers Union Local #76, pose happily at the Pete Seeger concert in Athol Sept. 23. They spent much of the past year organizing this and other activities to benefit the local workers locked out by Union Butterfield, a division of Litton Industries that made machine tools in Athol. They said that over 2,000 people from four states attended and that it was a financial success.

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A Visit with Marion Herrick

A person doesn't need to go to a job every morning and come home at night. There are enough interesting things around us to keep us busy. If this attitude seems to summarize the opinion of the "new people" who have moved into town in the last ten years, you may be surprised that it is the opinion of Marian Herrick who has lived in Wendell since 1948. Perhaps the world lost a good teacher because of this attitude. Busy with their own careers, the students from Mrs. Herrick's French and History classes at a junior college in Iowa still take time to call her after a bad snowstorm to make sure she is OK, or invite her to dinner to discuss a recent trip. (How many of us remember our former teachers with such caring?)

But Wendell has profited form Mrs. Herrick's leisure hours. Anyone who has served on the board of assessors since 1956 knows the many hours Mrs. Herrick spends as the clerk for that board.

Since 1966, when donations were given in memory of her husband, Louis, Mrs. Herrick has been a library trustee. Of course, then the library was a dark dirty room which nobody took much interest in. State aid was available to small town libraries which were kept open for ten hours per week. So through the combined efforts of Bertha Bakes, Mrs. Hebert and Mrs. Herrick the Wendell Town Library began to grow. They kept it open, cleaned the building and built the collection of books. Although pleased with the growth of the library, Mrs. Herrick seems most pleased with the increasing interest in reading, learning and books that she sees in town.

I doubt that any person in town has not been touched by Mrs. Herrick's love of animals. Whether asked to sign an anti-vivisection petition, or asked to find a good home for a dog that the dog officer will have to kill, we are quickly made aware of her love for animals. Her own cocker spaniel goes everywhere with her in the backseat of her car. And that same cocker spaniel has learned to respect the rights of the wildlife Mrs. Herrick protects around her home. Especially, the mother raccoon and five babies who live in the crawlspace. Although not a captive or pet, this raccoon has learned through the years special signals with which she communicates with Mrs. Herrick.

When she is not busy with assessors work, library work, and her animals she enjoys the wildflowers and the woods around her home or travels into Amherst or Northampton to enjoy the museums and music. After 36 years, she still finds Wendell a comfortable balance of nature around us and fine arts close by.

Sylvia Wetherby

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Herb Fever

Somehow, after having crushed, inhaled, or sampled one's way through an herb garden, selecting a jar of dessicated leaves at the market loses something. If sampling is believing, our fore-runners had the right ideas! Walk through a garden of herbs on a summers eve, by moonlight: you'll believe in contact with the past. Pick a brisk autumn afternoon: you will discover new meaning for Now. Touch your palate with fresh greek oregano, lovage, savory, french tarragon, sage. Sample multitudinous mints. Inhale the pennyroyal, lad's love, lavender. Ideas will scamper through your mind.

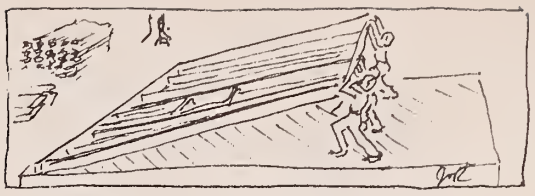
Most folks start with only a few herbs perhaps thyme, sage, pot marjoram, and basil. From such basics you can grow all the herb garden you can handle - In virtually no time, I had more than a hundred varieties. (yes, it helps to be not completely sane. Obsession does play a part, but so do the herbs.) Remember: once you have herbs, the herbs have you.

All herbs are either edible, medicinal or utile. Some can be a couple of these; none are useless. Plus, if you're only a looker (not a cooker, doctor, or just sacheting around), you've got color throughout the season. Early spring finds Heart's Ease a-bloom at the receding snow's edge. Soon, there are thyme blossoms, and delicate Woodruff. Then, taller hyssop. Pyrethrum, and feverfew, all physically dwarfed by such stately herbs as Angelica. In this garden of herbs you'll see hummingbirds - and honey bees - and, believe me, they'll tell their friends! There are also alot of critters you won't have - the herbs will deter their lingering.

Use lad's love n' lavender to moth proof your clothes; treat the feline population to catnip; treat your canines to flea - free days with cedar and wormwood bedding; relax with tisanes of lemon thyme, mint, balm, or Anise hyssop; try Bearnaise sauce on the Murphy's tonight! Have fun with herbs!

I may write more on this another time, but till then - look for me in the herb garden. Stop by! Lookers and sniffers and samplers are always welcome. Who knows ... maybe you'll get herb fever.

Jacquie Gentl



Wendell Building Boom

Having been assigned to do a factual report on the Wendell building boom, this individual drove about town to make a visual assessment of the situation. Sure enough, Bullard Pasture Road is so built up that it is hard to find an old friends' driveway. Plain Road, once busy only if Harry Thayer happened to take his daily stroll at the same time as a car drove through, is now an actual neighborhood. And there is that new house going up near the Country Store. It's gotten so a person easily might not know a quarter of the people who live here anymore.

A stop at Town Clerk Annie Hartjens office to review old town reports revealed statistics about Wendell growth. In 1974, 249 dwellings and 35 camps were assessed; 249 dwellings and 36 camps in 1975, 271 dwellings and 37 camps in 1976, 278 dwellings and 36 camps in 1980, 304 dwellings and 36 camps in 1982. 1983 findings are not yet in because of the delay in the printing of the Town Report due to incomplete state figuring. Available figures do show an increase of 55 known dwellings in eight years, or an average of almost seven new homes a year.

To compare this average with 1984 construction, Town Building Inspector Harold "Tillie" Burnett, received a call. His off-the-cuff estimate of this year's new construction was "probably not as many as half a dozen new houses, that's all."

Judging from this research, the 1984 Wendell building boom is an optical illusion. Wendell officially is growing at its own recent average rate. The real population boom in Wendell actually occurred in the mid-1970's. Mrs. James Thompson of West Road shared census statistics she gleaned in her readings.

YEAR	POPULATION
1955	339
1965	294
1975	631
1980	694
1983	701
1984	census stats not in

Wendell's population has been steadily increasing. This year, finally, we are noticing the effects of this growth upon the landscape as our inhabitants begin to spill over into new and less hidden away building sites.

by Kathy Becker

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Goblins and ghosties and ghouls, oh my!
Witches and bats and cats, up high!
Donuts and apples and cider, oh boy!
Prizes and noise and games, oh joy!

All Hallows Eve, better known as Halloween, has been celebrated since the times of the Romans and the early Britons and is a combination of pagan festival and Christian worship.

Originally, October 31st, was a harvest festival marking the end of summer and the retreat of the sun before the powers of darkness. In jubilation, all the dark underworld characters proceeded to wreak malicious mischief on mere mortals to celebrate their triumph. It was believed, that on this day, the dead could return to earth as witches, goblins and ghosts or any other weird shapes they chose. The early Scots believed that on Halloween, withches would fly through the sky on their broomsticks attended by black cats.

With so much evil and magic around there were also protections. Huge bonfires were lighted on hilltops and blazing brands carried by the peasants to mimic the protection of the sun and frighten away the powers of darkness. Branches of holly, witchhazel and wyck-elm provided safety for their bearers.

Today, Halloween has become a time of gentle pranks and practical jokes, a time for youngsters to dress up and scare compliant adults. Though the intent of Halloween is different, the old Druids and early pagans have left their ghosts, black cats and candles and pumpkins and apples carry on the tradition of pagan themes in modified form.

With that brief review in mind, Wendell young people have opportunities to celebrate this ancient festival in a fun-filled and pleasurable way.

Halloween Party

The Wendell Ladies Aid met October 4th at the home of Florie Blackbird. The following officers were elected: Anne Diemand, President; Clare Green, Vice President; Virginia Wheeler, Secretary; Florie Blackbird, Treasurer. Plans were made for a Halloween Party on Wednesday afternoon at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. This will be for all Wendell children through the sixth grade. Fun and games are planned with awards for a pumpkin contest, followed by refreshments.

This year we are going to put the emphasis on fun and games instead of awards for costumes.

Next meeting will be November 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Elsie Diemand to discuss children's Christmas Party. Any person interested in planning this would be most welcome.

Mexican gray wolf — Robert Streeter

Wolves and Green Fire

Rain is falling on the cabin this morning. It is the kind of sound that puts my memory to work. Steam is rising from a mug of freshly brewed tea, and I hear the flicker of oak in the stove. Summer is leaving quickly this year, acquiescing quite gracefully to Autumn's demands; just fading away I sip from the mug, scanning the mantle in front of me. My eyes come to rest on the photograph of a wolf. It takes me back.

I remember my visit to a wolf sanctuary five years ago, just outside of St. Louis. The sancturay is run by Washington University, and contains various sized enclosures for wolves. I stood on the safe side of a chain link fence watching a pack of Mexican gray wolves. I wondered what they thought watching me. This was not the kind of encounter our ancestors knew. I stared through the fence and listened to the dull roar of an interstate highway to the south. Times had changed. I knew that. The wolves knew that.

I watched with a biologist who had studied these wolves for two years. He spoke of the fifty or so Mexican Gray Wolves remaining in the wild. That was five years ago, and wilderness species such as wolves do not increase when facing the industrialization of our planet. House sparrows increase.

It was feeding time for the wolves, and we threw them chicken necks and high protein dog food. The social structure was quickly revealed, but the alpha male was missing. The biologist suspected the old male had died. He searched the grounds and found it lying stiff and bloated, its eyes open.

I entered the enclosure, assured it was safe but feeling unsure, to help remove the dead wolf. We carried the carcass to the biologist's car, laying it in the trunk. The biologist had a tear. I was silent, and listened to the highway.

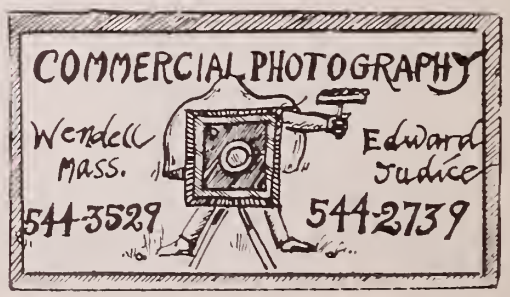
Aldo Leopold in, "A Sand County Almanac", writes after shooting a wolf: "We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes - something known only to her and to the mountain." Leopold was young then, and felt that fewer wolves meant more deer, "but after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf not the mountain agreed with such a view."

Wolves will probably not survive in Mexico for the same reasons they did not survive in Massachusetts. The bullets, poisons, and traps of misguided humans have always found wolves. We have failed miserably to understand these creatures and allow for their needs.

Wolves and other wilderness species serve as barometers of environmental quality. When they begin to disappear it is time to ask questions. To continue persecuting wolves and other predators violates the most basic principle of deep ecology; non-human forms of life have value in themselves, and these values are independent of their usefulness to human beings.

When the green fire died in the eyes of the last Massachusetts wolf, true wilderness died with it. I miss its warmth.

Robert Streeter



Fall Harvest Dinner a Success

On September 30, months of preparation came to a glorious and delicious conclusion. Dozens of Wendell citizens prepared and served a gourmet meal to supporters of the Rt. 2 environmental fight. The proceeds of the dinner will go toward the legal fund to bring the case to Federal Court.

For dessert after the dessert, the 90 plus diners and the servers were treated to a concert by pianist Steven Schoenberg. Guests from all over the Pioneer Valley joined in the evenings festivities. Many of them serve in one way or another with environmental groups in Western Massachusetts.

All of the food was prepared by Wendell Cooks, Susan Dunlaney, Brenda Vincent, Bev Cowdrick—Dale Kowacki being chief amoung them. Others helped turning lovely material from Chinatown in Boston to tablecloths and napkins. Bouquets from Jackie Gentl's garden decorated the entire room.

At least two dozen people helped in the kitchen and served in the dining room. "It all went like clockwork" said Anne Zak, Rt. 2 Environmental Coalition fundraising organizer. "And we all had a good time, a good party," she said and added,"we earned over $15,000 to work on the Rt. 2 problem, and the dinner is the last major fundraising event of 1984.

The Fall Harvest Dinner kitchen and waiting team in front of the White Church, Old Deerfield

The Dinner.. behind the scenes

4:15 p.m., Sunday, September 30. The kitchen of the white church in Old Deerfield. Steve Maynard is at one sink, Joshua J. Dostis is beside him at the second, and Bob Streeter is at the third. Dishwashing is starting at the convivial pace as dusty church china is readied for the dinner less than two hours away. Gretchen Gates and Bev Cowdrick are slicing patés and Kuumba is artfully slicing local baby squash while Rayanne Maynard sculpts radishes. Flashing knives reflect orange, red, yellow and green as organically grown vegetables are prepped. Judy Gurppenhoff and Dale Kowacki are melting butter for rice milanese. The pace is busy but controlled. I keep my eye on the schedule taped to the wall and on my watch. Eighty guests are somewhere taking showers and getting ready themselves -- their logistics seem relatively simple to me.

By 4:40 the pace and excitement have increased. Plates of hors d'ouevres are arranged, salad greens torn and salads assembled, smiles are more fleeting as each worker gathers speed.

A turmoil outside the service door and Anne Zak enters with an urgent request to clear tables and counters, now piled high with vegetables. Brenda Vincent, beautifully dressed but crying, follows carrying a toppling six-layer chocolate cake. The kitchen crew exchanges looks of horror as her husband, Bob, and the dishwashers follow with plate after plate of bruised and jostled confectionery creations. Somewhere between shock and hysterics, Brenda tells us she threw on the brakes to avoid a dog. The entire rear of her hatchback car was loaded with desserts, and the rearview mirror provided her with a veiw of hours of painstaking work coming straight at her. We can only give a hug, commiserate, and return to our duties. Dale, Bev and Bob Vincent with amazing quickness help her restore the culinary artwork with spatulas and great skill.

Sounds of guests arriving and ordering drinks in the foyer reorient us to our work, and soon the fragrance of uncorked wine, chicken baking and onions sauteeing in butter confirm our collective purpose. Davelin Newton and Karen Swan have a last conference with their wait crews and every kitchen member has a job.

The waits in their gold aprons made especially for the evening look stunning and ready. Mary Cunningham, Gina Caputo, Amy Carter, Nancy Cole, Janis Doubleday, Sharon Stadnik, and Adin Gilman are, in effect, Outreach Committee for both the kitchen and the Rt. 2 Coalition.

Off in the wings, Steve Smyder is the crisp and effortless bartender. Jackie Gentl brings in the extraordinarily beautiful flower arrangements she made for each table and the stage.

All during the dinner we keep the chatter low. This or the pressure of the situation opens our mental pores, and there is an easy, intuitive shifting from finished duties to unfinished ones. It is a dance that's both productive and exciting -- almost spiritual. Kuumba carries pan after pan of cooked chicken from oven to warmer while Raeanne alertly lets her pass as she continues her chores.

"Where's the ladle?"

"Pitchers are faster!"

So the soup gets served. Dale's quick innovation of tall pots and long-handled spoons for stir frying as a substitute for forgotten skillets hints that there is nothing of which we are not capable. So the sudden, unpredicted rush of returning dishes, when it happens, finds Dale and Bev with both arms plunged in dishwater.

Two courses to go, and the crew is operating at top efficiency and jovial as they respond to Josh's clowning. At one point I see five of them doing a silent boogie with cleavers, dishtowels and other kitchen paraphernalia in hand.

Finally, it's time for concert break, and with it our first rest in almost five hours. From organization to preparation, from taste-testing to the final event, the team worked hard and selflessly, and was rewarded with one of the highest experiences in their community-active lives. The compliments from the floor were icing on the cake of our own satisfaction.

A special thanks to Rowe Conference Center for china and to the food growers and helpers: Christine Heard, Apollo, the Cohens, the Stones, the Idoines, the Kurinsky-Gross's, the Bolands, the Koehlers, the Kellers, Heidi Krantz, and Anne Diemand.

- by Susan DunLany

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Selectmen's Minutes

August 7

Meeting called to order with full Board present, 7:03 p.m.

Approved minutes of 7/24, 2/17, and 6/19 meetings, with correction to 7/17 minutes stating Sylvia Weatherby (rather than Gladys Powling) requested use of Hall for Bible School.

Jim Slavas questioned status of Town census at request of Supt. Lubinski. Census should be completed soon.

The Board held two pole hearings at the request of NET for buried cable on Millers Falls Road and Farley Rd. Ed Boyce represented NET and answered questions. Elsie Diemand wanted clarification of service to houses on South side of road, and requested that efforts be made not to block the Egg Farm driveway completely during laying of cable. Peter Diemand expressed concern for maple trees growing along trench route. He was assured that the trench would skirt the trees where necessary. The Highway Surveyor requested that cable work be coordinated with DPW work on Farley Road. Mr. Boyce agreed. The Board approved both requests unanimously, 7:32 p.m.

Nick Cole, Sales Rep from New England Municipal Supply attended meeting at the request of the Board in order to discuss an outstanding order for plow blades with his firm. Mr. Cole was authorized to deduct 33 1/3 % from order balance due, and drop item for bolts from order, leaving balance of $1810.00. Under questioning by the Board, the following points were elucidated:

a) no P.O. was issued for this purchase, and no notice of the Town's P.O. policy was sent to NE Municipal.

b) the order was made in FY 1983-84, but delivery and billing were to be made in FY 1985. The Board pointed out that state law forbids the encumbering of unappropriated funds.

c) the cost of the blades, with the discount, remained about 2½ times the cost of other suppliers. No clear comparison of steel quality could be arrived at.

The Board discussed the Warrant articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting with members of the FinCom. The FinCom wanted a clearer explanation of the origin of the $40,000 excess in the bridge account. Selectman Lewis stated that the State has approved the project for 100% reimbursement, with the Town paying for engineering only. $55,000 was initially appropriated, and engineering costs are approximately $15,000, which will leave about a $40,000 surplus in the account.

The Board considered pay raises for the DPW. Gladys Powling asked the Board to give the men a raise large enough to allow them a decent income. Selectman Lewis stated that the raises would be retroactive to July 1, 1984. The Highway Surveyor requested a raise of $.93/hr. for his position, and a raise of $.55 for the other employees. After some discussion during which the Board expressed concern over the diminished budget allotted to materials, the Board voted unanimously to institute the following wage scale for FY 84-85:

Surveyor: $8.00/hr.
Truck Driver: $6.20/hr.
Perm. PT laborer/driver: $6.50.

The Highway Surveyor told the Board of the need for a new arc welder for the DPW, as the present one is too small for heavy continuous welding. He got a price quote of $668.00 for a Chase Turbine, 250 amp AC-DC welder. Currently the Tool Account has $1500 balance. Selectman Lewis cautioned that it is dangerous to draw down the account this early in the year. The Highway Surveyor agreed and would attempt to get other bids, but restated the need for a larger unit for the upcoming repairs to the plows.

Kathy Becker informed the Board that the outdoor service will cost about $425 instead of the original estimate of $300. She said that the Old Home Day Committee is fundraising, but it may be some time before the Town is reimbursed.

The Board received a request from Buckle Up Your Kids to have a sign placed at the preschool. The Board took this under advisement.

The Board signed a beer license for the Police Association.

The Board received notice from Mass. Electric that they intend to spray their ROW between Sept. 7 and 28. Krenite and Garlan IV will be used, and the spraying contractor is Vegetation Control Services.

The Board adjourned the meeting to Tuesday, August 14, 1984, 7:00 p.m.

August 14

Continuation of the August 7, 1984 meeting.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ted Lewis with Selectman Michael Idoine present.

Charles Smith and Neal Feltman informed the Selectmen that there is a vacancy in their board. They proposed Joshua Heinemann who was elected to serve until June 30, 1986.

Emma Cappelluzzo expressed to the Board her concerns about the road near property that she owns on Locks Hill.

Her greatest concern is the sharp corner just above her cabin where the bank is washing away.

The Selectmen will look the situation over with the Highway Surveyor and get the situation corrected.

Ms. Cappelluzzo also presented the Board with a petition from some West Street residents asking to have the speed limit reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph.

The Board also received several comments about Old Home Day:

1. Some group other than the Police Association should sell the beer.
2. Dogs should be kept off the common.
3. Food sellers should get permits from the Board of Health.

After getting the feelings of Selectman Jim Slavas on the telephone regarding the plow blade issue which was presented last week, Selectman Michael Idoine made the following motion: The Board wishes not to accept the offer made last week by Mr. Cole of the New England Minicipal and Construction Supply Co. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis and voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sept. 4,1984

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Selectman Jim Slavas with Selectman Mike Idoine present. Ted had to work.

The minutes of the August 7 and 14, 1984; April 19 and 23, June 28, November 15, 1983 along with January 7 and 10, 1984 were accepted.

Motion was made, seconded and voted to purchase a Cab and Chassis from Sweeney Ford, Lincoln, Mercury of Greenfield for $26,343.00 ($27,500. GVW Ford Truck's bid)

Don Mackie asked the Selectmen if they could have the Highway crew clean up the mess created by an overturned rubbish barrel near the cemetery. The Board said that they would get the mess cleaned up.

Dog Officer Kenneth Wing reported that he is having a hard time getting unlicensed dogs licensed. He suggested publishing a notice in the paper with fines of $10, $25 and $40 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd time offenders in a calendar year for both unlicensensed and unrestrained dogs.

Discussed the disposal of dogs under the new law. Discussed the need for and type of kennel.

Discussed the need to appoint a right-to-know co-ordinator for the Town (requirement of Revenue Sharing). Certain work must be completed by 9/27/84.

A Revenue Sharing accessability to the Handicapped Committee is needed. An evalution report is to be filed by 10/17/84.

Discussed how to use government grant administration money. The Board decided to inform the four Town Steering Committee not to add this to the Administrative Assitant's salary.

Received a registered letter from New England Power Company announcing the application and approval for the issueing of more stock.

Jim will look into the legal aspects of the Town placing a bid on a used truck.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Williston, clerk

Note: Minutes for the August 21st Selectboard meeting were evidently not circulated and not available to the Wendell Post. Therefore the Post interviewed the only Selectman available at press time, Jim Slavas. This report is his recollection of the meeting, and not an official set of minutes.

The costs to the Town of the Route 2 fight were discussed.

A registered letter from Northeast Utilities was received, giving notice of spraying the power lines in September.

The Board received a request from Fred Heyes to upgrade Lock Hill Road #1, where he has building lots. The Board felt that they should wait for a major appropriation from Town Meeting.

The Board approved the purchase of a new welder for about $680 from Chase Turbine, using money from the Tool Account of the Highway Department.

Ted Lewis signed a letter to New England Minicipal and Construction Supply Co. stating that the Town would not accept delivery of new plow blades from them.

There was a communication from Emma Cappelluzzo asking to improve the corner near her cabin. The Board decided to stabilize the bank before winter.

Hobb Putnam requested that the rocks which the highway department moved to make room for plowing be put back along the road to keep people from parking in front of his house. Ted Lewis will discuss this with the road surveyor.

Ron Grogan received a call from D.H. Jones Realtors regarding the status of Old Farley Road. Lewis' recollection was that the road was abandoned. He will respond.

The full Selectboard was present at this meeting. It was adjourned at 8:15.